

Appln. No. 10/813,415

Attorney Docket No. 8627-453
Client Reference No. PA-5259-RFB/DIV**III. Remarks**

Claims 1-41 of the present application are pending. Claims 4 and 21 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 29, 33 and 34 have been rejected, and claims 7-20, 22-28, 30-32, and 35-41 have been objected. By the amendments and remarks provided herewith, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections and objections. Support for the amendments is found in Applicants' specification as originally filed. Specifically, support for the amendments may be found in claims 1 and 24 as originally filed.

In the Specification

The specification has been amended to address a clerical error, however, no new matter has been added. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has objected to claims 7-20, 22-28, 30-32, and 35-41 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants sincerely thank the Examiner for the thorough examination and allowance of these claims.

Accordingly, claims 7, 9, 18, 26, 28, 31, 32, and 39 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, these claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 10-15, 19, 20, 22, 23, 27, 36, and 40 each depend generally from one of claims 7, 9, 26, and 39, which are allowable for the reasons stated above, and thus, claims 8, 10-15, 19, 20, 22, 23, 27, 36, and 40 are also allowable for at least these reasons.

Claim 1 is currently amended to incorporate all of the limitations of former claim 24, which has now been cancelled. The Examiner indicated that claim 24 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and

BRINKS
HOPER
GILSON
& LONE

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any intervening claims. Since claim 24 depended from claim 1, and claim 1 now includes all of the limitations of claim 24, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Claims 16, 17, 25, 30, 35, 37, and 38 each depend generally from claim 1, which is allowable for the reasons stated above, and thus, claims 16, 17, 25, 30, 37, and 38 are also allowable for at least these reasons.

Claim 41 as originally filed is an independent claim. The Examiner has indicated that claim 41 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Since claim 41 is in independent form, Applicants assert that claim 41 is in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 6, 29, 33, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,998,551 to O'Neil et al. (O'Neil), claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of former claim 24, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten to incorporate all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, as stated above, claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 29, 33, and 34 depend generally from claim 1. Thus, claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 29, 33, and 34 are allowable for at least the reasons provided above.

Withdrawn Claims

Applicants note that since claim 1 is in condition for allowance for the reasons stated above, the withdrawn claims 4 and 21 are also in condition for allowance for at least these reasons.

Appln. No. 10/813,415

Attorney Docket No. 8627-453
Client Reference No. PA-5259-RFB/DIV

Conclusion

Thus, claims 1-23 and 25-41 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

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Date

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie R. Shaw
Bonnie R. Shaw (Reg. No. 60, 493)

BRINKS
HOFFER
GILSON
BLIONE